

FEATURE – USDA AND DOE TEAM UP ON BIOFUELS

INTRO: The USDA and the DOE have released a plan to speed up the development of sustainable biofuels. The USDA's Bob Ellison has more. (1:43)

THE DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE AND ENERGY RELEASED THE NATIONAL BIOFUELS ACTION PLAN DURING AN EVENT AT U-S-D-A HEADQUARTERS. THE INTERAGENCY PLAN IS A JOINT U-S-D-A AND D-O-E EFFORT TO ACCELERATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SUSTAINABLE BIOFUELS INDUSTRY.

Tom Dorr, USDA Under Secretary: This will give our successors a solid foundation for carrying this mission ahead in the years to come.

BOTH DEPARTMENTAL SECRETARIES ANNOUNCED FEDERAL INITIATIVES TO ACCELERATE NON-FOODSTOCK BIOFUEL PRODUCTION.

Ed Schafer, Agriculture Secretary: One of the best new programs in that group will provide loan guarantees of up to two hundred and fifty million dollars to bio-refineries that pioneer new cellulosic production technologies.

Samuel Bodman, Energy Secretary: Our agreement is to construct and operate a commercial scale bio-refinery that will use eventually corn fiber or corn stover to increase plant production of ethanol by twenty five million gallons per year.

THEY BOTH EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR INCREASED NON-FOODSTOCK BIOFUEL PRODUCTION.

Schafer: We must move forward with the next generation of bio-fuels made from waste materials like crop residues, and woody biomass. Dedicated energy crops like switch-grass and maybe even orange peels one day.

Bodman: We cannot sustain the level of bio-fuels production needed to meet our future energy requirements if we continue to rely solely on ethanol derived from food-stocks like corn.

THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO INCREASE BIOFUEL PRODUCTION TO CUT U-S GASOLINE USE BY TWENTY PERCENT IN TEN YEARS. I'M BOB ELLISON FOR THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN WASHINGTON D-C.